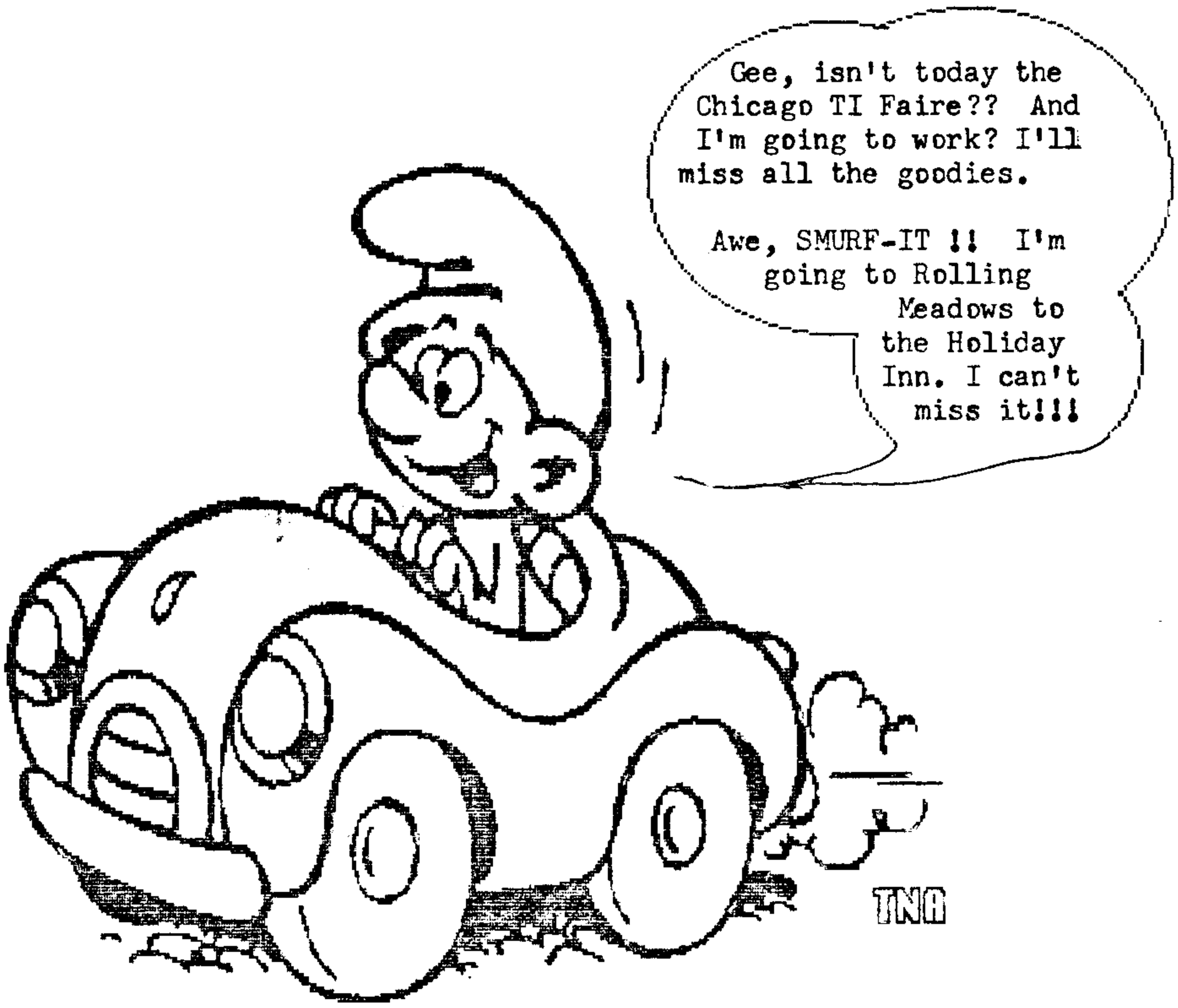
CHICAGO TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO TI-99/4A USERS GROUP

6TH ANNUAL FAIRE
NOV. 12, 1988
This is it

NOVEMBER 1988
EDITOR: Bob Demeter


Gee, isn't today the Chicago TI Faire?? And I'm going to work? I'll miss all the goodies.
Awe, SMURF-IT !! I'm going to Rolling Meadows to the Holiday Inn. I can't miss it!!!
TNA

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE CHICAGO TI FAIRE . LOOK INSIDE.

Sat. November 12. Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, Ill.
Show starts at 9am. There'll be pure pleasure till 6pm.

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Contributing artists: Buzz Krantz, Dan Gronowski, Danny Goldstein, Anne Dhein and BD

GROUP'S HOTLINE 312 755-0051

FAIRE HOTLINE 312 695-9291

MEETING DATES

Excluding the Faire, all meeting will be held the first Saturday of the month. All meetings will be held from 1pm to 3pm in the Community Room of the Brick Yard till further notice.

The Chicago Times is published 10 TImes a year from Sept. to June. Chicago TImes is in no way affiliated with Texas Instruments. We are supported solely by our subscribers and advertisers. Subscriptions are free with membership to the Chicago TI 99/4A User's Group. The Chicago TImes is also distributed free to any User's Group that wishes to reciprocate. Articles within these pages may be re-printed by other User's Group Publications provided credit is given the Chicago Times as the original source of the article. Comments and letters are welcome. We also accept submissions of original articles and programs.

GENEVE SUPPORT ARTICLE

Howdy Doody, there, sports fans!!! It sure is nice to be back with the continuing adventures of Geneve in TI Land!!! This month, I'm gonna try to keep it short and sweet. By now, all of you TI loyalists should know that we, here in Chicago, are getting ready for our yearly TI BASH. Its proper name is the Annual Chicago Area TI-99/4A Users' Group's TI Faire, and I am predicting that this year's Faire will be the biggest and the best Faire that we have ever had. This year's Faire chairman... OOPS!!! Of course, I mean chairPERSON is Marcy Brun. Marcy was my Faire manager, advisor, and consultant, for last year's Faire. She worked like a demon to help make last year's Faire the great and unqualified success that it was. Now, she is this year's chairperson. I humble request that everyone give her the highest level of cooperation that is humanly possible; it is clear to me that she deserves it. Anyway, I happen to already know that there will be some very nice goodies for all of you Genny freaks out there. How would you like for old shiny Krome Dome to give you a few short previews??? Why, of course you would!!!

Let's begin at the beginning of the alphabet with "G" for Geneve, pronounced Genny. Myarc, the maker of Geneve will be represented by Mr. Jack Riley. Jack will be showing Genny. There is a darn good chance that he will also be showing Myarc's Advanced Extended BASIC and version 1.10 of M-DOS. Yes, according to Jack, our DOS is just about finished. For those of you who have been keeping up with the latest versions of M-DOS, that have been released, you have seen the emergence of greater utility and more and more features, which are gradually making Genny do all of the things that are documented in her manual. With the emergence of the full DOS, I think that it will be fair to say that Geneve has totally left the realms of "vapour ware." It means that Geneve finally IS the computer that we have been dreaming about and waiting for. Also, we are quite certain that Jack will be showing Myarc's newest product, the hard/floppy disk controller card. This peripheral is also fully compatible with your 4A. It is an important piece of equipment in that it continues to validate not only Genny, but also her beloved sibling, our humble 4A. (Who's the clone clown that said that there is no more interest in the 4A???) I also expect and hope for Jack to demonstrate the proto-type version of the multi-tasking window program GEME. Yes, sports fans, Genny has fully arrived and in high style!!!

Also, in addition to Myarc, Asgard will be showing quite a few nice little programs that are compatible with both Genny and our 4A. Probably the most significant program that they will be showing will be the word processing program, PRESS.

It was written by the talented programmer, who is also responsible for TELCO, Mr. Charles Earl. (Charles will also be present at our Faire.) Anyway, PRESS will probably, without a doubt, be the most complex, flexible, powerful, and significant word processing program in the entire TI community. It is a "clone" of the IBM program WORD PERFECT. In fact, this program can read and write files that can be read by a clone using the WORD PERFECT program. Yes, sports fans, I am talking about some limited clone compatibility, at least in the area of text files. Also, Asgard will be coming out with two new sequels to the great game LEGENDS! I can hardly wait!

Those of you who have frequented the Chicago Connection, a Chicago based TI bbs, may have seen some messages left by a Ms. Cynthia Becker. You may have also downloaded off of some of the information services some examples of her art work. I saw the first stuff that she did, when she first got her Genny and the program MY-Art. At that time, she was doing very good cartoon type work. I then had the priviledge and the pleasure to watch her evolution as a computer artist. Later, she was creating works that are truly impressive. The "drawing" HRACOONS is a good example of what she is capable of. Well, it seems that I am not the only person who has been impressed with her work. I say this because Asgard will be putting out its first MY-Art "coloring book." This program will include line work done by Cynthia Becker, and the user will be free to color in any and all of the included "paintings." This is another program that I will be intending on buying, at our Faire. Thanks for your support of the TI/9640 community, Cynthia. Best of luck with this first release. I hope that there are many more.

In addition to the above mentioned stuff, there is BATCH-IT, by Tom Bentley and Charles Earl. There is also DISK OF DINOSAURS by Ken Gilliland and PR Editor by Tom Bentley. All of these great things are coming out of Asgard. Thank you, Asgard, for your continued support of the TI/Geneve community.

In addition to Asgard, there will be Genial Computerware. They will have REMIND ME, a great program that I use on a very regular basis. They will also have the program MacFlix. This program allows Geneve and 4A users to use graphics that were created on and for the MacIntosh. (Limited MacIntosh compatibility??? I can hardly believe it!!!) The will also have the program PC Transfer. This last program is a program which allows both the 4A and the Genny to create and read text files that were created on and/or for any IBM clone. Here we have another example of limited text file compatibility. In addition to these, I am looking for some additional new programs, to be emerging at this year's Faire.

I have taken the time to cite the above mentioned companies and programs simply because of the fact that they are sources of software for our beloved Genny. At the same time, they continue to support our dear and beloved 4A. Still, I am also confident that there will be many other companies and programs with stuff for Genny and our lovely, little 4A's. I also urge you to read Big Bob Demeter's library column. Bob said that he would try to write some reviews of some of the newest software, that is out, in the TI community.

I really do intend on keeping this article short, but next month, I will be doing some further documenting of some of the undocumented aspects of M-DOS. I will also be talking about a most ingratiating experience that I had in Seattle, Washington, last month, at their Faire. It was a great trip with a really great Faire and with a lot of super nice people. I also will have a report, relative to the upcoming Faire and its significance to Geneve. I really feel that after this Faire, things will be significantly changing for Geneve, for the better. I just might mention that this year, I am looking for the emergence of a clone of 1-2-3 Lotus. I am also looking for the emergence of a utility card, which will include a MIDI and a speech function, and some other goodies. I am also looking for some more sophisticated graphics programs. Sports fans, it's all coming; I only exhort you to be patient.

Well, can you believe that old Krome Dome is going to get off this page,
NOW??? (A laconic Krome Dome??? What's the world coming to, anyway???) Well, there will be more coming next week. Right now, all that I can say is, support your TI users' group. In this way, we will be around when YOU need us.

That's all for now. SEE YOU ALL AT THE FAIRE!!!

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INTEREST???

Is there still any interest in the TI??? For we TI loyalists, this question is a silly one as we already KNOW that there is plenty of interest in the TI and its compatible computer, the Geneve 9640. The only persons who would ask such a silly question would be those whose OWN interest is waning, but this is to be expected.

When the TI was still being produced, by Texas Instruments, our users' group was formed for the support of those persons who chose to purchase a TI-99/4A computer. Later, with the event of "Black Friday," it was decided to continue to support the TI-99/4A computer because, many of us came to the conclusion that this machine was still capable of meeting all or most of our computing needs. While most of us chose to stay with our 4A's some of us chose to deal with other machines. Some chose the Apple, some chose the MAC, some chose the Atari, some chose the IBM, and some even chose the CommieDoor!!! In the midst of it all, there remained a group of dedicated TI loyalists. We were determined to continue to support the 4A. We also decided to expand the size and scope of our organization. As a result of our expansion, we found that there was an increasing number of people who were looking for an organization that was supporting the very machine that they owned and chose to use. As a result of this, our organization began to grow even larger. And despite predictions of gloom and doom, for the 4A and the 4A community, surprisingly, our machine became even better. Once Texas Instruments decided to leave the home computer market, the 4A began to become a more "open" machine. Therefore, new hardware and software began to proliferate, and last year, after many rumors to that effect, the first viable TI compatible computer began to be mass produced; I am speaking of the Myarc Geneve 9640 Home Computer. As the result of the emergence of this machine, there has been an infusion of new life and interest into the TI community. The recent release of the Myarc Hard/Floppy Disk Controller Card is a good example of this. The release of new and sophisticated software such as TELCO, TI Base, MAC Flicks, PC Transfer, Remind Me!, Plus!, Archiver 3.2, etc., are all examples of continued interest and support in the 4A and its compatible computer.

Some months ago, in our executive board meeting, it was decided that our group would continue to support the 4A and all compatible computers. By compatible computers, we meant only those computers that are compatible with the 4A. In other words, the 4A continues to be the "raison d'etre" of our organization. It is the rallying point around which we group. This decision was clearly affirmed, again, at our last executive board meeting. Therefore, contrary to any

rumors to the contrary, The Chicago TI-99/4A Users' Group will continue to support the TI-99/4A computer and all computers that are compatible with it, and from this resolve, we shall not waver.

In spite of our current resolve, we are not so sanguine as to believe that our machine of choice will continue to meet all of the needs of all of our members forever. We well realize that needs and wants both continue to change. Requirements at work have forced many TI users/owners to purchase IBM's or "clones." And here, let it be clearly submitted to the candid world: MS-DOS is the standard of the BUSINESS community and it is here to stay; its presence cannot therefore be ignored. At the same time, we TI loyalists are forced to define or redefine our reason for the existance of our organization. The ostensible answer is that we exist to continue to support the 4A and compatible computers. This means that anyone who wishes to continue to use the 4A will continue to find support in our organization. Though many of us will continue to use other computers at work and at home, the 4A is the reason for the existance of our group, and all other computers will be forced into a patently subordinate role. Because of the pervasiveness of the MS-DOS based machines, we have allowed the formation of an IBM Special Interest Group (S.I.G.). This S.I.G. was formed because a few of our current members wanted to discuss and trade MS-DOS software. We have no objection to this, but it must be made clear that all monies, which have accrued, through membership costs and various group activities, will be used solely for the support of the 4A and its compatible computers, PERIOD! Relative to this decision, there shall be no compromise. We are a TI group, and we shall therefore support only the TI and computers that are compatible with it.

TI vs. IBM???

Let it be clearly understood that there is no competition between the users of the TI and the IBM machines. One's choice of a machine is a personal choice, which should, best, be determined by one's needs and wants (in that order). The most intelligent way to choose a machine is to first find the software that does what one needs and/or wants to have done. The next logical step is to then find a machine that will run that software. Once this has been accomplished, one will hopefully have a machine that one is well satisfied with. I do believe that this is the case with those of us who have chosen to stay with the TI-99/4A. In my own case, my computer usage is limited to, a.) word processing, b.) data base usage, c.) telecommunications, and d.) entertainment (in that order). The TI-99/4A, and more recently, the Myarc Geneve 9640 computer provide me with all of the power and speed that I feel are necessary to accomplish the above stated goals. Though I am a user of a Geneve, I must clearly

admit that it is not the machine that I would recommend that everyone purchase. The simple reason is that nothing is for EVERYONE. Geneve is sufficient for my needs, but I am also aware that the 4A is quite capable of handling the needs of most members of the 4A community. The Geneve is only for those who want something MORE! By more, I mean, memory, speed, and potential. It was a big and an important decision, that I made, a year ago, when I chose to take the path of the 9640, but in spite of my own personal choice, the 4A, and its support, continues to be important to me. I guess this is for a very selfish reason: everyone in my home has his/her own complete and expanded TI system. I therefore must admit that there continues to be 4A users who still require support. I therefore feel that it would be exceedingly insensitive and foolish to tell all those other 4A users that their machine is "obsolete" and they should go out and purchase a Geneve or (God forbid) a "clone." To do such a thing would make us irrelevant to the needs of the TI community and those who constitute that community.

A year later, after my choice to purchase a Geneve, I can clearly state that I have no regrets. I don't need and I don't want a "clone." I have all that I need or even have time for. For those who choose to travel in a path that is other than that of the TI community, we sincerely wish you the best of luck. There is no rancor or resentment on the part of this community. Our steadfast support of the 4A is not to be construed as an indictment or condemnation of the IBM or any other machine. Rather, it must be understood as an act which is indicative of our unfaltering support of the 4A and those who continue to use and need this machine. Questions of which machine is superior are meaningless, and at best, silly. One's choice of a machine is a personal one. I repeat that one's choice of a machine is one that is based on one's needs and wants. It is a decision that is not open to debate.

To those who have chosen to travel the route of the MS-DOS world, I would say the following: Please do not confuse your own loss of interest in the TI with any observation relative to interest, in the TI, within the rest of the community. For those of us who remain TI loyalists, the TI still lives. "Reports of our demise have been wildly exaggerated." We continue and we shall endure.

If we are to endure, I would humbly suggest that we take seriously the need of supporting our Fair Ware authors. We must remember that there is a cost for EVERYTHING! We must not confuse Fair Ware with WELFARE. If we do, we may find that we have soiled our own nests. I also humbly suggest that we continue to support our yearly Faire. It is the biggest and the best thing that has ever happened in the TI community. This event must continue, and despite hostile prognostications to the contrary, the 1988 Faire will not

be the last Faire. We must and we shall continue.

In closing, I entreat all members to volunteer. As we are a purely voluntary organization, it is only through voluntary work that we continue to survive. Speaking of volunteers, I would like to thank Carole Goldstein for her great efforts to make this newsletter the fine publication that it is. Her efforts and sacrifices will be continue to be remembered, appreciated, and sorely missed. I would also like to welcome our new editor, a personal friend of mine, Mr. Big Bob Demeter. Bob, you can be assured of the support of the entire community. I would also like to thank Matt Mullen for his work as the membership chairman. Matt had to give up this post because of work committments that would keep him out of town twice as much as they have in the past. As we both have the same employer, I can fully commiserate with Matt. I would also like to welcome James Brooks, our new membership chairman. I am sure that you already know that you will have the support of the entire membership. I would also like to thank Irwin Goldstein for his work as SYSOP of our group's bbs and welcome on board Nick (Eye) Iacovelli as our new SYSOP.

Remember to support your users' group so that you users' group will continue to support you!

SEE YOU ALL AT THE FAIRE!!!

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND VIEWS by James Brooks

Now that I, James Brooks have taken on this job as Membership Chairman, I want to thank all of those that have given me help to get started, namely Hank Ellerman, Matt Mullen, Don Jones and last but not least, Nick Iacovelli.
Due to my not being able to attend the last meeting, Matt Mullen was there and sat in for me. He reports that we had around 75 members in attendance and that we aquired two new members and a couple of renewals. The board voted a special Faire drive for New Members and Old Member Renewals alike, $15.00 for new members-$15.00 for renewals at the Faire only. After the Faire the old fee of $21.00 will be in effect. So I will need more help at the table especially for this day as I expect a busy $$$$$$ day. Any volunteers may contact me on my board at (312)651-7252. Thank you in advance and see you at the Faire.

P.S. We expect some fine things at this Great Faire!

library shelf

— Bob Demeter —

This library article will be very short this month. There is not too much to say here. I have the All New 1988-89 Library Catalog at the printer. It will be ready for purchase at the November 12th TI Faire. For those non-attending members that get them free, yours will be coming forthwith. I do not send these out. Please give the proper people some time to get the catalogs mailed out after the Faire.
The new Library Listing includes 70 new disks plus a complete listing of all the Fairware we have. It also includes a listing of our 9640 Support Library. I hope you'll find the new catalog useful. Keeping with John Behnke's format, I have listed the regular disks by disk number as well as alphabetically. The Fairware and 9640 stuff is, as usual, listed alphabetically. You will also notice the new form I have made up for disk orders. The new form reflects the new address for library orders. This being my P.O. Box.
Some of the newer programs we have added to the library are:
TELCO 2.2 by Charles Earl. This newer version updates the dialer and has TIBBS Xmodem. This newer Xmodem will let Telco work on most BBS's. The 2 disk set is $3.00.

GIF #2 plus pictures was added for the October meeting. It contains version 2 of GIF plus 4 or 5 more pictures for your viewing pleasure. The price is $4.00. Please don't forget your Fairware donation!!!!

9640 Batch files is the last new disk I added for the October meeting. It contains an entire set of Batch files that run from M-DOS. You are given a menu from which to run several programs from DOS. You may also choose to format or catalog disks. There is even a choice to set up your epson compatible printer. This disk is in the 9640 Support Library and sells for $4.00.

Speaking of Batch files, I understand there are several nice programs coming out for the 9640 and 4A at our Faire. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find transcripts from Genie describing some of these programs.

BATCH IT is a new program from Asgard Software. It works on the 99/4A and 9640 to make Batch files. It is also compatible with Asgards new PREditor program. In trying to run the BATCH IT program, we have come across 3 typos in the manual. I have notified Chris Bobbitt. I'm sure he will take care of the problem. For right now, those of you that may have the program, I will give you the fixes.

The example used on pages 11 and 12 in the manual will NOT compile. You may get some sort of illegal label error. The reason is they are defining the same word they use as a label. Line 2 reads: DEFINE MACRO,25,"Wild ducks fly". On page 12 they use Marco as a label. Here is the fix. Read down to the 8th line. It reads: ONKEY 0, MARCO (CTRL ,). Chance this to read: ONKEY 0, MAC (CTRL ,). On page 12, change the label MARCO to MAC. This would be your 15th program line. Changing this will let the program compile. But, it still won't run properly. Line 3 says LOAD "DSK1.PREDITOR". The program on the PREditor disk is called PR. So, make the change. How was the guy writting Batch-it to know what the guy writting PREditor was gonna name his file?
The 3rd fix is very simple too. As soon as the program runs, it will load PREditor, jump out of that and ask you Name of Batch:. Hmmmm, who hit CTRL Z??? Nobody, that was the next command. Here's the fix. We are missing a line. After line 8 (ONKEY 0, MAC etc) insert a new line 9. The new line 9 should read: GOTO MAINMENU.
That is all there is to it. The program should now run flawlessly. Before you go calling Asgard try these changes and see what happens. I think Chris will appreciate it.

Well that's about it for me this month. Most of what I have to say is in the Library listing. If you get a chance, come see us at the Faire 11/12/88 from 9a to 6p in the Chicago room at the Holiday Inn Rolling Meadows. You will see from Marcy's and Don's articles we have a splendid day planned for all. The library is boasting 300 to 350 disks. Also, check out our NEW HARDWARE MANUAL. This new book contains over 70 pages of hardware changes you can make to you 99/4A. The book sells for $6.00. Please add $2.00 for shipping. This is 70 double sided 8 1/2 X 11 pages of easy to do hardware changes to get the best from your 99/4A. Try it. I think you'll like it. C U at the F A I R E ....

News Watch!! New products

File: TRIAD.TXT

TRIAD is a combination of a terminal emulator, a disk manager and a 40-column text editor all rolled into one and residing in memory at the same time. Once loaded, there is no need for further disk access to enjoy its features.

TERMINAL EMULATOR: 300, 1200 or 2400 baud, odd, even or no parity, full or half duplex. Upload/download files via Xmodem with CRC error-checking as default, switching to checksum if necessary. Countdown counter displays number of records yet to be received/sent (in decimal). Non-TI files stored as DF128. Outgoing DF128 files can be sent with or without TI header. Program checks for available space on disk before accepting incoming file, thus avoiding a full-disk error ten minutes into a download. Upload ASCII text files (DV80) from disk or from a stored buffer area. Auto log to disk if desired, or save buffer on the spur of the moment, disk directory, purge buffer, reconfigure terminal parameters and a window feature to page backwards in the current buffer and also show available space. 13K buffer.

DISK MANAGER: You can do the usual--format a disk (with or without verification), rename a disk, copy a disk, sweep a disk, copy files, delete files, protect/unprotect files, rename files, view text files. Single-drive operation supported.

EDITOR: 40-column fixed mode, 13K buffer. FCTN/CNTL keys are consistent with TI-WRITER. Load/save files, print files, save to the TE buffer for later uploading, or purge the buffer. If you have just been in TE mode, whatever you saw on the screen there is available for your use here.

CONFIGURATION routines always in memory. Change terminal settings, screen colors, log and printer names, cursor speed, QUIT key on/off; decrease size of Xmodem buffer to avoid timeouts; auto-incrementing of logname if desired. (All files written in append mode); save configuration to disk.

TRIAD will also load any EA5-type program as long as it resides in high memory. I have successfully loaded

FAST-TERM, DM1000, Funnelweb, Archiver 3.02, Birdwell's disk utilities and even TRIAD from the TRIAD loader.

After initial release, a source code/ tutorial similar to KWIKFONT will be available.

File: HYPER COPY.TXT

Genial Computerware and Mike Dodd announce the first commercial program to run from MDOS mode: Hyper Copy
Hyper Copy is the final word in disk copiers. It will copy a double sided 40 track disk in just under a minute, including formatting the copy disk. An 80 track disk takes just under two minutes.
If that was all that Hyper Copy did, it would be impressive enough. But it doesn't stop there. It is the first program in the entire TI/9640 community to allow formatting a disk with a skew. Skew is a technique whereby the physical layout of a disk can be shifted on each track, resulting in a much faster sector read. No longer will the computer pause between tracks -- it will step and continue reading without any noticible pause at all. Because of this revolutionary feature, Hyper Copy will allow you to format a disk without copying. It also allows a "box format", similar to what DM1000 has.
Hyper Copy also allows multiple copies of the same disk. You can read a disk into memory and then write it out to multiple disk drives. After all the disks are written to, all you have to do is switch disks and press a key, and Hyper Copy will write to the disks again.
A common problem with all past fast disk copiers for the 99/4A and 9640 have been that they only allow you to use physical disk drives. If you wanted to copy a floppy to a RAM-disk or a RAM-disk to a floppy, you had to use a normal, slow disk copier. But not with Hyper Copy -- it fully supports reading and writing from/to logical devices such as a RAM-disk.
There have, of course, been fast disk copiers before for the 99/4A, and, recently, for the 9640. However, Hyper Copy is the fastest and most versatile such program ever written. It is physically impossible for any disk copier to attain a quicker speed than Hyper Copy.

Hyper Copy will run on the MYARC, CorComp, and TI disk controller cards. It is scheduled for release at the November 12, 1988 Chicago TI Faire. The price is $20.00.
Genial Computerware.

TI-FAIRE/CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 11, 12, 13, 1988

HELD AT:
Holiday Inn
3505 Algonquin Rd.
Rolling Meadows, Il
(312-259-5000)

PRODUCED BY:
Chicago Area TI-99/4a Users' Group
P. O. Box 578341
Chicago, Il. 60657
Marcy Brun, Faire Manager,
(Hot Line # 312/695/9291)

SOCIAL MIXER:
Friday, November 11, 1988
8:00pm - 12:00pm
admission - $4.00

FAIRE HOURS:
Saturday, November 12, 1988
9:00am - 6:00pm
admission - $4.00
(Chicago area TI-99/4a Users Group members
and children under 12 are free)

DINNER:
Saturday, November 12, 1988
7:00pm - 9:30pm
admission - $10.00

HOTEL ROOM RATE:
$55.00 - single
$55.00 - double
$65.00 - tower

LIMOUSINE SERVICE:
free to and from O'hare Airport and hotel

HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH:
The Milwaukee TI-Faire
November 13, 1988 / 9:00am - 5:00pm
Quality Inn
5311 S. Howell Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisc.
(across from Mitchell Field Airport)

PRODUCED BY:
The Milwaukee Area 99/4a Users' Group
Mr. Gene Hitz (414/535-0133)
4122 N. Glenway

Wauwatosa, Wisc. 53222
-also-
The Wisconsin 99er Computer Council
P. O. Box 2723
Appleton, Wisc. 54911

A big "HI!" to my fellow TIers.

Well, this is the last update about the 1988 TI Faire/Convention you will be getting before the big event. So if you haven't made up your mind yet as to whether or not you are coming, you might as well give into yourself and come to join in on the fun at the greatest and most well known TI Faire around.

The Exhibitors List has grown quite a bit from last month. However, as of October 14th there are still a few spaces left. So if you are a dealer of TI products or general computer products and would like to get in on a good thing, then give me a call right away on the computer Hot Line (312/695-9291). We wouldn't want you to miss the biggest selling day you would have all year. Remember, we are bringing the clients to you, about 700 to 1000 of them. All you need to do is work fast enough to sell them what they want.

Speaking of the Exhibitors List.

- ASGARD SOFTWARE -- new software by Charles Earl, Travis Watfort, Jam Reiss, Ed Johnson and Chriss Bobbitt.
- BD COMPUTER SUPPLIES -- computer supplies.
- BUD MILLS SERVICES -- Horizon Ram Disc and P-Gram Card.
- CADD ELECTRONICS -- the Gramulator (Gram Simulator)
- CG DRIVES -- disk drives, power supplies.
- CHICAGO AREA TI-99/4A USERS' GROUP -- Club's library, membership information,T-shirts, pencils, TImes back issues.
- CHICAGO B128 USERS GROUP -- discs, data cases, supplies, etc.
- COMPETITION COMPUTER -- TI and printers.
- COMPUSERVE -- communications/information service.
- DATA SYSTEMS --TI software.
- FOX VALLEY USERS CLUB -- membership information.
- GENIAL COMPUTERWARE -- products for the TI.
- GENIE --telecommunications service.
- GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE -- Joy Paint '99, Joy Paint's Pal Certificate '99, Certificate Companion, at least one new release.
- HUNTER ELECTRONICS -- hardware, software.
- L.L.CONNER ENTERPRISE -- hardware, software, cables, chips, grom, ram.
- MICROPENDIUM -- The lastest issues. Subscriptions.
- MIDWEST ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS -- Horizon Ram Disks and other products.
- THE MILWAUKEE TI-99/4A USERS GROUP -- membership information, raffle tickets
- MYARC, INC. -- hard and floppy disc controller for 4a and 9640, also new products
- NATIONALMYARC USERS GROUP -- membership information, newsletters
- OTTAWA USERS GROUP -- E.J. Graphics, the new version of DM 1000, Charles Earl, author of Telco,
- RAVE 99 CO. -- keyboard, speech adapter cards, memory expansion cards.
- TEXAMENTS -- TI Artist, Companions, CSGD Series, new TI Base.
- TI USER GROUP OF WILL COUNTY -- membership information.
- TIGERCUBSOFTWARE -- TI products.
- TRITON PRODUCTS CO. -- catalogs.
- THE WISCONSIN 99ER COMPUTER COUNCIL -- membership information.

If you were at last year's Faire, you may recall all the door prizes that were given out. These were donations from the exhibitors. This year the generosity of the exhibitors is over flowing again. They will be bringing in a great variety of donations for the door prizes. Here are just a few to wet your appetite:

- from GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE: Joy Paint '99 and Joy Paint Pal.
- from MICROPENDIUM: a subscription
- from TRITON PRODUCTS CO.: TI-Writer, TI Logo II, and Muliplan.

Don Jones has been working very actively on lining up speakers for the seminars and demonstrations. He has writen an article in this newsletter telling you what the schedule will be and informing you what each seminar will be about. Please take the time to read it.

I would like to thank the new persons that signed up at the October meeting to help product this year's Faire. Even though, the list is growing, we will still need more help. So if you can spend one or two hours of your time Saturday while you are at the Faire, please check in at the entrance table to volunteer. They will contact me and I will find the right job for you. Once again, I would like to thank all of the following people who are helping to produce the best show ever:

- AttendeeAdvertising and Promotion -- Mike Chappell
- Head Faire Management Staff -- Marcy Brun, Mike Chappell, Don Jones
- Printing-- Roger Helm
- Equipment Collection -- Mark Harms, All Stump
- Social Mixer Tickets Reception -- Sandy Bartels, Dave

Wakely
- Raffle Coordinator -- Bob Knapik
- Hospitality Room -- Mr. Mrs. Hal Shanafield
- Faire Move-In -- Tim Fass, James Brooks, Norris Romeo, Al Antonowiz, Matt Mullen
- Faire Move-out -- Tim Fass, Ken Knapp, Norris Romeo
- Announcements -- Jon Bartels, Butch Goldstein
- Group Sales (T-shirts, pencils, etc) -- Sam Pincus, Remi Adams
- Membership Table -- Irv Levinson, Ken Knapp, Matt Mullen, Oscar Brentana
- Out-of-Town Travelers Information -- Grant Schmalgemeier
- Audio/Visual set-up -- Chuck Leavitt, All Stump
- Exhibitor's Representative -- Paul Farber, Sandy Bartels, Carole Goldstein, Mike Polonsky
- Bulletin Board Systems Information -- Bob Demeter, Alan Izzo
- Back Issues Table -- The Shanafield family
- Driveway for Trailers -- Oscar Bretana
- Speakers and Seminar Coordinator -- Don Jones
- Seminar Door Security -- Mario Garza, Ed Herdliska
- Dinner Reception -- Christine Chambers
- Faire Entrance Table -- Al Antonowitz

You may notice a new listing above of Raffle Coordinator. It was discussed and and decided to hold a raffle drawing this year. The prizes for this raffle will be packs of Fareware programs. The proceeds from the raffle will go to the authors of these programs. Too many of us use the very well written Fareware programs and don't send in any money to the authors. This is causing authors to give up on us. Why should they put their personal time into helping us and not receiving anything for it. So our group decided that we appreciate them and want to show it. So when someone comes around to you asking if you want to get in on the raffle, please do so. For you will be helping yourself in the long run by keeping the minds of the program authors working on TI.

In the past years, we have asked that no video cameras be brought to the faire because we were taping the faire and selling the video tapes to help our treasury. Well, this year it was decided that video taping of the faire itself would be allowed. However, it was also decided that video taping the seminars would not be allowed. This is because the seminar is the property of the speaker. It is not ours to give away. Therefore, no video cameras will be allowed in the seminar room. We will have a person at the door that will discourage this. I ask you to please cooperate with this ruling.

As you know we are having a dinner Saturday night after the Faire. We have to guarantee 100 dinners. I have been selling pre-paid tickets. However, I fear that a lot of you

are just waiting to pay at the door. This is fine, accept that the hotel will have to know how many dinners to prepare. Therefore, when you arrive at the hotel, please stop at the hotel service desk to let them know that you would like a reservation for the Saturday Night Dinner. Otherwise, we will have to turn you away after 100 persons arrive at dinner time.

As just a reminder, we will still need Ti systems for the exhibitors to rent during the faire. If you would like to have a free membership for 1989, please bring you TI system to the hotel Friday night or Saturday morning by 7:00am. Bring it to the Lock Up Room which will be one of the sleeping rooms closest to the Chicago Room where the faire will be held. We will also be in need of a few 19 inch color TVs to be used in the seminar room. If you don't have the time to donate your services at the Faire, this is the way to help. Your equipment can be picked up after the faire is over, at about 6:30pm.

Remember, we were given a Special Hotel Rate of $55.00 a night for each room (not each person). However, the hotel will not know to give you this special rate unless you tell them that you are with the TI Faire/Convention. So if you do not want to pay $80.00 a night, then remember to tell the hotel service desk when you make your reservation or when you arrive that you are with the TI Faire/Covention and you want the special rate of $55.00 a room.

Flying in? If you are flying into Chicago for the faire, why not consider flying out from Milwaukee. This is not impossible. If you haven't made your reservations yet or can change them, then consider this. Stay at the hotel through Sunday morning, caravaning up to the Milwaukee TI Faire with us early Sunday morning, then flying out from the Mitchell Field Airport in Milwaukee Sunday afternoon. This will give you a TOTAL TI FAIRE/CONVENTION WEEKEND! One that you will never forget. Just ask around at the hotel who will be going to Milwaukee, and I'm sure you will find a pleasent ride up there. I know I'm going to make this a total weekend affair. Do you want to have a good time? Why not join me?

Marcy Brun, Faire Manager

RGB Monitor Interface for the TI99/4A

by Peter Schubert, TIsHUG

For those of you who have a RGB colour monitor, or would consider getting one, I have just finished building and testing an RGB interface board that plugs into the standard console and provides outputs for an Analog RGB monitor. It is powered from the 12 volt from the modulator socket, and is simple to build using common transistors (8 off) and resistors. It has adjustable resistors for setting colour saturation and balance. Also included is a simple single chip sound amplifier with volume control. A Printed Circuit Board has been made by club member Leo Gorniak and for details on availability, contact club Director Cyril Bohlsen. This PCB can be mounted into a small plastic box with the 3 inch speaker, or directly inside the Console or Monitor.

This design is based on an idea from a Japanese article by M. Shibuya, circa 1982. It has very good colour purity, and in its present form gives truely exceptional performance, which you will have to see for yourself.

Circuit diagram

Figure 1 shows the complete circuit of the RGB Board. Some monitors may not handle the 'Y' signal from the console directly as was done in this design, and as it is not buffered you will have to remove the 75 ohm termination from the SYNC input of the monitor, as this load is too high for the console video chip output. Figure 2 shows an optional buffer stage that can be added if needed. It requires a 5 volt supply which must be well regulated, and because it must drive a 75 ohm load will draw more current from the console 12 volt than is desired. This is one reason why I did not use it, because it is the 12 volt regulator in the console that makes the console hot.

Adjustment procedure

Adjust the following potentiometers for colour saturation on Primary Colours;

VR1 - GREEN
VR3 - BLUE
VR5 - RED

Start with all three potentiometers fully clockwise (minimum colour) and slowly turn each anti-clockwise to get the colour. Adjust VR2 and VR4 for purity of secondary colours, in particular CYAN and MAGENTA. It may be necessary to repeat the adjustment procedure to obtain true white and grey.

Note: If your monitor has a 75 ohm termination on the SYNC input, this must be removed by opening monitor and cutting out this resistor. (Unless Figure 2 buffer amplifier is used).

continued on page 10

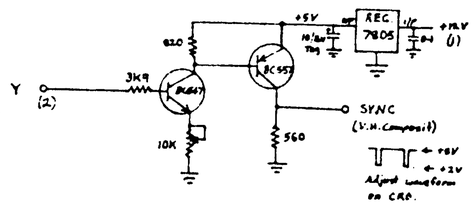
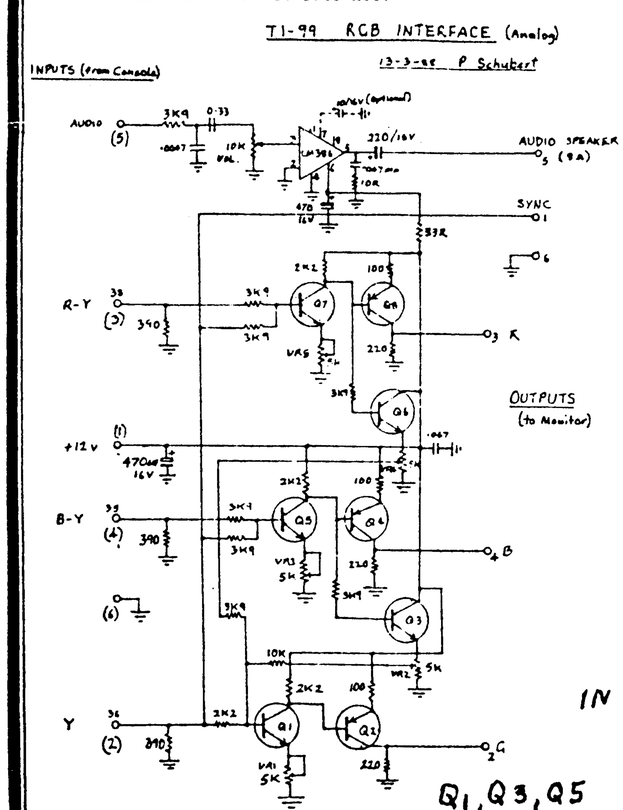
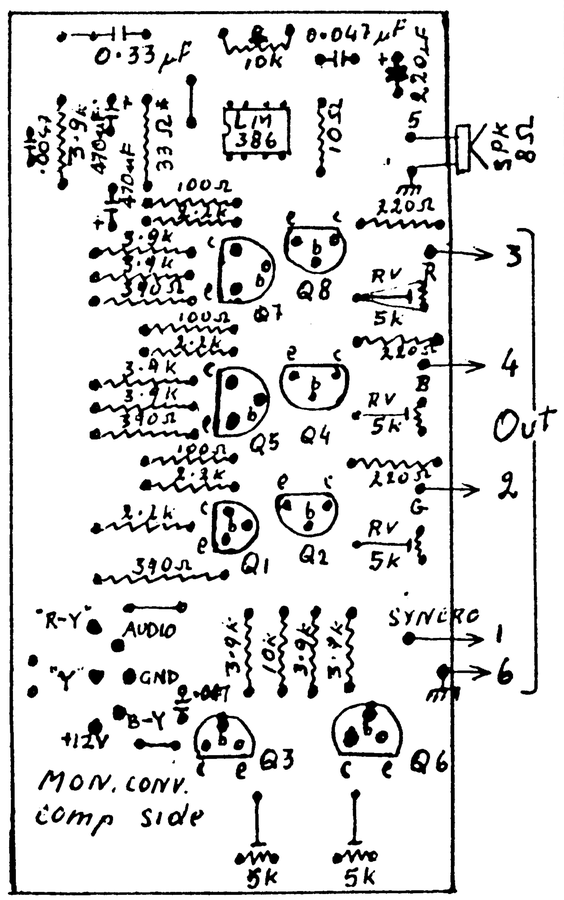


FIG. 2





It's Election time again. Please use Ballot on back Ballots must be returned by Dec. 3, 1988

Nominees

President

[] Don Jones

[] Nick Iacovelli

V.P.

[] Hank Ellermann

Treasurer

[] Oscar Bretana

Secretary

[] Marcy Brun

Write in

[] _____

SPEAKERS, AND DEMONSTRATORS FOR THE 1988 CHICAGO USERS' GROUP'S FAIRE!!!

10:00-10:30 Charles Earl, Ruth O'Neill, and Chris Bobbitt will demonstrate and speak about the new Asgard word processing program named PRESS.

10:30-11:00 Donn Granros and Chris Bobbitt will show two new sequels to the popular "dungeons and dragons" type game, Legends.

11:00-12:00 Irwin Hott will give a talk titled, "How the TI is Used by a Blind Person."

12:00-01:00 Bud Mills will give a demonstration on the Horizon RAM disk and a new product called the P GRAM Card.

01:00-02:00 Jack Riley, of Myarc, Inc., will give demonstrations of the new Myarc hard/floppy disk controller card, the Myarc Geneve 9640 computer, GEME, Advanced BASIC, and M-DOS.

02:00-02:30 Charles Earl and Tom Bentley will discuss TELCO, BATCH-IT, and TEXLINK.

02:30-03:30 Jim Horn, of CompuServe will discuss a new out-reach program in the TI community. Here, he will discuss how this program offers, "FREE COMPUTERS FOR TEACHERS, EDUCATORS, AND REHABILITATION SPECIALISTS."

03:30-04:30 J. Peter Hoddie, of Genial Computerware will demonstrate the program PC Transfer, MacFlix, and other new programs from this company.

It appears that this years Chicago Area TI-99/4A Users' Group's Faire will be most interesting. During our presentations/demonstrations, some new software for the TI-99/4A and the Myarc Geneve 9640 Computer will be making their public premiers.

Asgard will be releasing a new word processing program, for the TI and the Geneve called, PRESS. This program is essentially a clone of the MS-DOS based program named Word Perfect. This program should be important to the TI community, as it will provide compatibility with files written on MS-DOS based machines, running Word Perfect, and from what I have heard about it, this program will surely be the most powerful word processor in the TI community.

Donn Granros will be returning to our Faire to premier two new sequels to his great "dungeons and dragons" type game program named, Legends. This is a truly great program that even an adult can get involved in. In fact, it is the only game that I have ever excelled in and beaten my son in. Now, that is really saying something. If you haven't played Legends, you are in for a big treat.

In his presentation, Mr. Irwin Hott will show how the TI-99/4A continues to be a useful machine for blind computer users. It should be very interesting to see some of the many ways, both new and old, that the 4A's potential is used and adapted for various situations and needs. Mr. Hott's demonstration will be a good example of what the 4A can do that other computers are unable to do as well or as cheaply.

Bud Mills will be demonstrating the Horizon RAM disk, the "Pheonix" RAM disk, and a new peripheral called the P GRAM Card. The last mentioned item is a very new product in the TI community. It has on board a p-Code function, which provides the p-Code environment for the TI-99/4A. This card also is capable of all of the functions of the now discontinued product, the GRAM Cracker, and it is totally compatible with the earlier product and those files that were created using it.

Jack Riley, of Myarc, Inc., will be demonstrating and discussing a very important new peripheral, in the TI community, Myarc's new hard/floppy disk controller card. This card allows use of up to three hard drives and up to four floppy disk drives (4.25 and/or 3.5). It will also format floppy disks either single or double sided, and as single, double or quad density. Jack is also expected to demonstrate, for the Geneve 9640 Computer, Myarc's Advanced Extended BASIC, GEME (a program that provides, a true multi-tasking environment), and the latest versions of M-DOS and GPL.

Charles Earl, one of the authors of PRESS, will be demonstrating and discussing his excellent, popular, new terminal emulator program, TELCO. He and Tom Bentley will also be discussing a program, which they both collaborated on called BATCH-IT. Mr. Earl's new TI/Geneve bulletin board, TEXLINK, will also be demonstated and discussed. Because of the recent pervasiveness of Mr. Earl's programs, the Faire will be an excellent place to question him about his creations.

An old friend and favorite, Jim Horn, the TI sysop on CompuServe will be discussing a new out-reach program that has been very successful, in its implementation, on the East Coast. Anyone interested in increasing user group memberships and the population of the general TI community should plan to attend this most compelling and interesting

seminar.

In the past, Mr. J. Peter Hoddie, of Genial Computerware, has given some of the most interesting, enlightening, and entertaining demonstrations that we have ever seen. Anyone who saw Mr. Hoddie's demonstration with two TI's and his 'cello, a couple of years ago, will be very anxious to see what new programs and ideas he has to offer to the TI community.

In addition to all of the above formal/scheduled demonstrations, informal demonstrations will be given in many of the vendor's booths. We are confident that no one will leave our show disappointed. Until then,

SEE YOU AT THE FAIRE!!!!!

Don Jones
Faire Speaker Coordinator

By Oscar Gretana

PRTOUR II

Well , if you read part I of this section last month, and are brave enough to go trhough part II, you must be really interested in learning PRBASE, so, back to work!.

I assume you have already set up your entry screen and have entered at least some test data. Lets concentrate in a little manipulation of your data.

You have noticed, that when you load your data base, there is a pause, and a counter flips as the message "BUILDING INDEX", shows in the lower part of your screen. What is really happening, is that PRBASE is reading the first ten characters of field No. 1 and keeping this information as an INDEX. Just to experiment, and see what PRBASE read, from the command line type "V", this is the "VIEW INDEX" command, now following the instructions, press the space bar to see the index scrolling horizontally on the lower part of the screen.

Enough of Index viewing, press any key to return to the command line. What good is that Index for? Well, lets assume that the first field contains the information on last names of your list, now, type "U" to "USE" the Index, at the prompt, type some last name that you know is in your list,

press enter and...PRESTO!!, the first last name which match your request, is shown on screen. Now I call this FAST!!!. well it will be as fast even with over 500 records. So, you can use the Index, even if is not sorted to find records.

Sorting your index will give you access to your data in an organized way. To sort the index, press "S", there will be a message asking you to wait as the sort takes effect. Sorts are very fast, I have timed a 200 records sort to about 15 seconds, and even larger sorts, over 500 records, to a little over 1.5 minutes, which is very good for our machine. Once the Index is sorted, the screen will flip back to normal, and you may view, or print your records alphabetically.

If at any point you do not remember a command to access some function, just press "H" for HELP, and a display of all the commands available with a brief description will pop up. Now, find the command to show the screeens in alphabetical order, and press it, do it again, You are in effect using the INDEX to view the data in sorted order.

One very interesting feature of PRBASE is the selective INDEX, this is, the capability of building an index for records that match certain criteria, (ie), lets assume that your data base contain addresses of customers from all over the country, but you want to print labels only for those who live in Illinois.
Well the first step is to enable the Selective INDEX option, this is accomplished by pressing "O" for OPTIONS, some questions about your system will come up, the last one is "SELECTIVE INDEX Y/N?", answer with "Y", now the screen will go back to normal, now, press "I", to build an INDEX, go to the field you want to build your INDEX on, and press Proceed, now again go back to this field and enter the string of data you want the index to be selective on, in this case IL. In order to use this index, you mus sort it, Do it!. Now you will see the same counter flipping, and a second counter which only flips when a match is encountered. Once the sort is complete, you may view the screens alphabetically, and there will be only those that match your criteria. If you print reports, or labels, there will be only those who match the criteria also.

At this point, you may want to Edit some data, this is simple, If you want to change Mr Don Jones address, just Use the Index to Find Jones, (assumming your Index is build on last names), once the correct screen is shown, press "E" for edit, and your cursor will be on the first field, change this record as you wish, and press "Proceed" once finished, that's all there is to it!.

If you have gone this far, you are capable of doing any manipulation to your data base, not that we have covered all possibilities, but I will leave some to your imagination.

Again use the HELP screen, and try all commands, this will give you a good feel of PRBASE.

I will leave the creation of reports for a next Issue. I do not want to exaust your patience and the subject may be lenghty, but I will try to clear a question that have repeatedly come up . What kind of file is a PRBASE data file?

PRBase, as explained before, do not create conventional files. What the author has done in a very clever approach, is to use the disk sectors, one for each record. Now, the disk controller has the ability to find a sector by its number. PRBase uses the first ten sector of a disk, 0 to 9 for General information about the data base, (ie), Data base name, field names and screen positions, masking, tabular reports, label reports and screen colors. Then it uses all remainder sectors for data, this is, record No. 1 will be sector No. 10. Well, this may lead you to think that the only way to access, or create PRbase data is to do it with the PRBase program. WRONG!, You can create records for future transfer to PRBASE, with extended basic. You may retrieve records from a PRBase data disk, (that I know of),only with the PRBase program, a sector editor, or a very nice utility named RAW, this is an Assembly call to be used with Extended basic written by Barry Traver. For those who have ventured in the use of the excellent PRBase utilities program, RAW, is really what make these utilities click.

If we could access PrBase data records, we would be accessing a DISPLAY, FIX 255 file, and if we want to create records to be used by PRBase from extended basic, this is the type of file that should be created.

Well enough for this month, See you !!!!

Chicago TI User's Group
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago, Ill. 60657

First Class Mail

Notes from the Editor...

Well, it looks like things are finally pulling all together for our 6th annual Faire. It looks like once again we'll be on top showing the world the newest things for our machines.

Once again the few have pulled together to put on a great show for so many to attend. I think it's real sad that only 1/6th of our attending membership have volunteered to put on a show 700 to 1000 will attend.

It really makes me feel bad that so many attending members will come to the show. But, only 50 will volunteer to do some work. The funny thing is, it's almost the same 50 every year. I ask only one favor from the non-workers. While you are enjoying yourselves at the Faire, if you see one of the workers drop over from exhaustion, please don't step on 'em.

I am still offering $25.00 worth of free software to all that work 1-2 hrs. in the Library at the Faire.

Please remember we are still looking for a permanent place to hold our meetings. Another Triton would be great.
See you all at the Faire.